VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

STRUCTURE AND BRIDGE DIVISION

INSTRUCTIONAL AND INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM

GENERAL SUBJECT: Bridge Railings	**NUMBER:** S&B-51.5
SPECIFIC SUBJECT: Traffic Railings	**DATE:** July, 2005
DIRECTED TO: District Structure and Bridge Engineers Structural Engineer Supervisors	**SUPERCEDES:** SAB-87-51.4
SIGNATURE:	

National Highway System (NHS): The traffic railings on new bridges, replacement bridges and bridge reconstruction projects shall have been crash tested and found to perform satisfactorily. A concrete safety shape such as the Type F parapet is preferred.

Median barriers may be 32", 42" or 50" high. The type of median barrier will be specified on the road plans.

Non-NHS System: Traffic railings on non-NHS bridges shall meet the current AASHTO geometric requirements and the AASHTO static load requirements as a minimum. Any railing that has been crash tested and found to perform satisfactorily may also be used.

Bridges Crossing Interstate Routes: All new bridges, replacement bridges and reconstructed bridges crossing an interstate route or an interstate ramp shall have traffic railings that have been crash tested and found to perform satisfactorily. For bridges not carrying Interstate highways, in addition to the traffic railing, a barrier such as a pedestrian fence shall extend a minimum of 6' above the roadway surface.

Note – For the purposes of this I&IM, a reconstruction project is a project that changes the physical geometry or load carrying capacity of a bridge.

CC: Chief Engineer
Chief of Systems Operations
Director of Virginia Transportation Research Council
Division Administrators under the Chief Engineer
Division Administrators under the Chief of Systems Operations
District Administrators
Residency Administrators
Federal Highway Administration

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